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# Message Text

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67
ACTION IO-10

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PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, PERSONS AND QUACKENBUSH: COMMERCE FOR UPTON

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ILO PORG LAB
SUBJECT: US ROLE IN ILO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS

REF: PR 36, 60TH SESSION, INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

1. SUMMARY. VIEWS OF ILO APPLICATION OF STANDARDS BRANCH CHIEF, ERNEST LANDY WILL BE OF INTEREST TO WASHINGTON AGENCIES ENGAGED IN REASSESSMENT OF US POLICY TOWARD ILO. LANDY BELIEVES EASTERN EUROPEANS AS WELL AS SOVIETS ARE PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE TO CHARGES OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH ILO CONVENTIONS AND THAT US SHOULD AGGRESSIVELY SEEK CITATION OF EE COUNTRIES IN ANNUAL ILO CONFERENCE COMMITTEE ON APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS. LANDY ALSO BELIEVES US CRITICISM OF BLOC COUNTRIES WOULD HAVE GREATER EFFECTIVENESS IF USG RATIFIED MORE ILO CONVENTIONS; HE SUGGESTED CONVENTIONS ON FORCED LABOR (29 AND DISCRIMINATION (111). END SUMMARY.

2. LANDY SAID SOVIETS MANAGED TO AVOID CITATION FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH FORCED LABOR CONVENTION AT JUNE ILO CONFERENCE BECAUSE US DID NOT EXPLOIT WEAKNESSES IN SOVIET POSITION AND BECAUSE OF CLEVER DIPLOMACY ON PART OF SOVIET REP IN COMMITTEE. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS
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YEARS, SOVIET REP ANSWERED CRITICISMS IN SUFFICIENT TIME

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FOR COMMITTEE TO COMMENT AND PROMISED CHANGES WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING. COMBINATION OF SOVIET LOW POSTURE AND US FAILURE TO FOLLOWUP GOT SOVIETS OFF THE HOOK. LANDY DOES NOT AGREE WITH THOSE WHO ACCUSED WORKER VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR COMMITTEE (HOUTHUYS) OF LEANING TOWARD SOVIETS.

3. LANDY SAID OBJECTIVE OF COMMITTEE AND OF US IN COMMITTEE SHOULD BE POINTING OUT AREAS OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH CONVENTIONS AND THAT IT IS MISTAKE TO JUDGE COMMITTEE'S WORK ON WHETHER OR NOT SOVIETS ARE FORMALLY LISTED UNDER CRITERION 7 FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. LANDY BELIEVES EASTERN EUROPEANS, ESPECIALLY THE CZECHS, ARE VULNERABLE TO CHARGES OF POLITICAL DISCRIMINATION UNDER ILO CONVENTIONS ON EMPLOYEMENT AND DISCRIMINATION. DISCUSSION IN COMMITTEE AND AT MARCH MEETING OF COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS MIGHT ALSO SERVE TO UNDERLINE DIFFERENCES AMONG EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES IN APPLICATION OF ILO STANDARDS.

4. LANDY SAID VALUE OF COMMITTEE'S WORK WAS THAT BLOC COUNTRIES AND THIRD WORLD (E.G., SYRIA) RESPOND TO ILO SUPERVISION OF HOW THEY IMPLEMENT ILO CONVENTIONS WHICH THEY HAVE RATIFIED. SOVIETS HAVE HAD TO ACCEPT "SOME MEASURE" OF INTERNATIONAL INTRUSION BY ILO INTO DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ON WHAT ARE ESSENTIALLY HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. SOVIETS DID NOT BOYCOTT SUPERVISION OF COMMITTEE AS THEY THREATENED TO DO IN 1974 WHEN COMMITTEE PUT THEM ON THE CRITERION 7 LIST; ON THE CONTRARY, THEY CONTINUED TO SUBMIT REPORTS, AND IN 1975 THEY AGREED TO APPOINTMENT OF NEW SOVIET MEMBER TO COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AND REPLACED THEIR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE COMMITTEE ITSELF.

5. IN DISCUSSING US ROLE IN COMMITTEE LANDY POINTED OUT THAT UNDER ARTICLE 26 OF ILO CONSTITUTION, AFL-CIO COULD LODGE COMPLAINTS AGAINST BLOC COUNTRIES FOR FAILURE TO PROPERLY IMPLEMENT ILO CONVENTIONS. LANDY WONDERED WHY IN CONTEXT OF AFL-CIO CRITICISMS OF ILO, THAT US LABOR MOVEMENT DID NOT AVAIL ITSELF OF OPPORTUNITIES UNDER ARTICLE 26.
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6. LANDY SAID US COULD EASILY RATIFY THE ILO CONVENTIONS ON FORCED LABOR (29), EQUAL PAY (100) AND DISCRIMINATION (111) WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING CITED FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. WHEREAS US ARGUMENTS IN THE COMMITTEE FOR CITATION OF OTHER MEMBERS STAND ON THEIR OWN MERITS, RATIFICATION BY US OF THESE AND OTHER ILO CONVENTIONS WOULD ENHANCE THE FORCE OF US ARGUMENTS AND

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UNDERCUT CRITICISM THAT THE US IS ONLY CONCERNED WITH HOW OTHER ILO MEMBERS APPLY THE CONVENTIONS. SOVIETS, FOR INSTANCE HAVE BEEN VOCAL IN URGING THAT COMMITTEE "LIST" COUNTRIES THAT HAVE NOT RATIFIED ILO CONVENTIONS.
ABRAMS

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